



The Grass Roots Initiative: A Science-Based Focus on Turfgrass

Turfgrasses impact Americans in many ways on a daily basis. Millions of acres of turfgrass on home lawns, golf courses, commercial landscapes, roadsides, parks, athletic fields, and sod farms improve our quality of life by providing open space, recreational and business opportunities, enhanced property values, and the conservation of important natural resources. However, there are growing concerns about the use of water, fertilizer, pesticides, fossil fuels and machinery on turf establishment and maintenance. In addition, many Americans are uninformed or misinformed about the benefits of turfgrass to society and the environment. The National Arboretum's Grass Roots Initiative is a 4-year program focused on the science behind turfgrass.

What are the goals of Grass Roots?

- Increase awareness of the importance of turfgrass and lawns to society and the environment
- Demonstrate new technologies within the turfgrass industry that improve maintenance practices and efficiencies
- Review and update national research priorities for turfgrass
- Bring together policymakers and others interested in regulatory issues that impact the turfgrass industry

How will Grass Roots be implemented?

Over the 4-year period, the U.S. National Arboretum will create an outdoor exhibit; add in-depth, scientifically vetted content to its web site; and conduct symposia, workshops, and demonstrations on various aspects of turfgrass and lawns. Some potential programs include:

- Symposia on turfgrass sustainability and resource efficiency
- Workshops on urban landscapes and their role in societal and environmental enhancement
- Public policy forums on the use of fertilizer in urban settings and impact on watersheds and groundwater
- A review and update on the National Turfgrass Research Initiative
- Demonstrations organized and conducted by industry groups (proper irrigation practices, fertilizer use, basic mowing and maintenance practices, and new technologies)

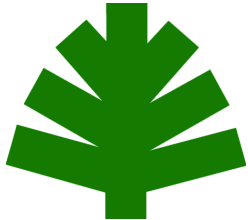
Geoff Rinehart is the Grass Roots Coordinator. [Learn about him, his job, and how to contact him.](#)

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Partners and Supporters of Grass Roots

Grass Roots is a cooperative initiative of the U.S. National Arboretum, USDA-ARS, and the National Turfgrass Federation, Inc.



NATIONAL TURFGRASS FEDERATION
Advancing Turfgrass Science for Society

We are grateful for the generous support of Grass Roots from a wide range of organizations and businesses. Please contact [Kevin Morris](#) of the National Turfgrass Federation if you would like help make Grass Roots possible.

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